

Expedited procedure
Under 37 CFR 1.116

02/03/2009

500.45682X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. AOTA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/560,225

Filed: DECEMBER 12, 2005

For: FRICTION STIRRING-WELDING METHOD

Group AU: 1793

Examiner: Kiley Shawn Stoner

Confirm. No.: 2697

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop: AF – FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 26, 2009

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, the period for response having been extended for three (3) months by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS; and

REMARKS are included following the amendments.